

The 5th Commandment: Taking Care of Others

by Rev. Richard Mau

Do not murder. —Exodus 20:13 NIV

If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. If he is thirsty, give him water to drink. By doing these things, you will pile up burning coals on his head. And the LORD will reward you. Proverbs 25:21-22 NIV

- Think of a time when you were hurt and someone helped you. What happened?
- Have you ever helped anyone who was hurt?
- How would you feel if you were hurt and no one bothered to help you?

Many times we hear about people who stop and help others at an accident. Occasionally, we hear about someone helping others in an emergency, like a burning house or tornado. Sometimes people help neighbors; sometimes people help others they do not know.

Have you ever heard stories about people helping those they did not know?

In Luke 10, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells how a man from Samaria helped someone he did not know. The Samaritan man did not worry about where the hurt man came from or what he did. The Samaritan just knew the man needed help and he helped him. In Jesus' story, the Samaritan treated a stranger like he would treat a best friend.

God wants us to help other people no matter who they are or what they do. God loves helping people. He wants us to enjoy helping others the way He does. **(Reread the Bible verse.)** God also wants us to love and help those who make us angry or upset. This is not easy to do!

Think about Jesus and His life here on earth. There were many times people were mean to Jesus and He was not mean to them back. Even when Jesus was hanging on the cross, He asked God His Father to forgive the people who were making fun of Him and yelling at Him.

- Can you think of other times Jesus was kind to His enemies?
- Have you ever tried to be kind to someone who was not kind to you?
- If so, what happened?

God knows there are times when people will be mean to us no matter how hard we try. Sometimes, the reason we should try to be nice is so our own hearts don't hurt by getting mean and nasty. Sometimes, we just need to walk away from mean people and trouble.

- Can you think of other things you can do when you are angry about how you were treated?

Prayer

Dear God,

Help us love others as You do.

Give us the strength to do the right thing when people are mean to us.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

